



## AMENDMENT / RESPONSE TRANSMITTAL

Applicant : Camm, et al.  
 App. No. : 10/005,186  
 Filed : December 4, 2001  
 For : HEAT-TREATING METHODS  
       AND SYSTEMS  
 Examiner : S. Fuqua  
 Art Unit : 3742

## CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence and all marked attachments are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

October 6, 2003

(Date)

Che Swyden Chereskin, Ph.D., Reg. No. 41,466

Commissioner for Patents  
 P.O. Box 1450  
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

Transmitted herewith for filing in the above-identified application are the following enclosures:

- Response in 3 pages.
- The present application qualifies for small entity status under 37 C.F.R. § 1.27.
- Return prepaid postcard.
- Please charge any additional fees, including any fees for additional extension of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

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United States  
FETHE24.001CP1 (47753-5cip)  
Patents

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION

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Serial Number: 10/005,186  
Group Art Unit: 3742  
Examiner: Shawntina T. Fuqua TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700  
Title: HEAT-TREATING METHODS AND SYSTEMS  
Filing Date: December 4, 2001  
Inventors: David Malcolm Camm; J. Kiefer Elliott  
Agent's ref: FETHE24.001CP1 (47753-5cip)

OCT 10 2003

October 2, 2003  
U.S. Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks  
U.S. Patent and Trademark Office  
Washington, D.C. 20231  
United States

Dear Sir:

**RESPONSE**

This is a response to the Office Action restriction requirement mailed September 9, 2003, the deadline for responding to which is **October 9, 2003**.

**ELECTION**

The Examiner has requested the applicant to elect one of patentably distinct Species A, B, C, D, E or F, and one of patentably distinct Subspecies G1, G2 and G3.

Applicant provisionally elects Species B with Subspecies G1, with traverse. The elected Species B with Subspecies G1 includes claims 1-65, 67-70, 72-88, 91-95, 97-116 and 118.

With respect to the traversal of the restriction requirement, M.P.E.P. § 803 provides that there are two necessary criteria for a proper restriction requirement: (1) the inventions must be independent or distinct as claimed; and (2) there must be a serious burden on the examiner if restriction is not required. M.P.E.P. § 803 further states that if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the Examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to distinct or independent inventions.

Applicant agrees with the Examiner's view that the various embodiments shown in Figures 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 8, 2a, 6a and 7a are patentably distinct. Thus, Applicant does not disagree with the examiner's view that the first of the above two criteria is satisfied. However, Applicant respectfully submits that it would not be a serious burden to search and examine all claims of the present application, and therefore, Applicant respectfully submits that the second of the above two criteria is not satisfied.

M.P.E.P. § 803 states that a serious burden on the examiner may be *prima facie* shown if the examiner shows by appropriate explanation of separate classification, or separate status in the art, or a different field of search as defined in M.P.E.P. § 808.02. Applicant respectfully notes that the present Office Action does not demonstrate any such separate classification, separate status in the art, or different field of search. Applicant therefore respectfully submits that a serious burden has not been *prima facie* shown.

In addition, Applicant respectfully submits that there would not be any serious burden to search and examine all claims of the present application, in view of the number of generic claims presented. In this regard, the following claims are generic to all species: claims 1-5, 8-20, 23-29, 32-43, 47-49, 54-64, 69, 72-87, 93-94 and 97-104. As there is significant overlap between the latter list of generic claims, and the former list of elected claims in Species B and Subspecies G1, Applicant respectfully submits that it would not pose any

serious burden to the Examiner to search and examine all claims in the present application.

In conclusion, Applicant provisionally elects claims 1-65, 67-70, 72-88, 91-95, 97-116 and 118 (Species B and Subspecies G1). Applicant further respectfully submits that the restriction requirement is traversed for the reasons stated above, and respectfully requests that all claims in the present application be searched and examined.

No fees are believed to be due for the present Response; however, would any fees be due, please charge them to our Deposit Account No. 11-1410.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON &  
BEAR, LLP

Dated: Oct. 6, 2003

By: Che S. Chereskin  
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